

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:
a plurality of closed cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis; and

wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells [that is inversely symmetrical to], with each cell in the second longitudinal row of cells having a different orientation from each cell in the first longitudinal row of cells.

31 24. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein each cell in a longitudinal row is directly connected to an adjacent cell in the same longitudinal row.

25. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends.

26. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends.

27. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 23,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells that is inversely symmetrical to the first longitudinal row of cells; and

wherein exactly three of the bends define an internal angle that is less than ninety degrees.

28. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein five of the twelve bends extend inside the cell.

29. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein four of the twelve bends extend outside the cell.

30. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 23,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells that is inversely symmetrical to the first longitudinal row of cells; and

wherein exactly three of the twelve bends define acute apices.

31. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein some of the twelve bends comprises a spring element.

32. (Original) The stent of claim 31, wherein each spring element compensates for changes in longitudinal length of the cell when the stent is expanded.

33. (Original) The stent of claim 23, wherein one of the twelve bends is a central bottom bend which extends into the cell.

34. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of closed cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis; [[and]]

wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell; and

wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells, with each cell in the second longitudinal row of cells having a different orientation from each cell in the first longitudinal row of cells.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends.

37. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends.

38. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 34,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell; and

wherein exactly three of the bends define an internal angle that is less than ninety degrees.

39. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein five of the twelve bends extend inside the cell.

40. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein four of the twelve bends extend outside the cell.

41. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 34,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell; and

wherein exactly three of the twelve bends define acute apices.

42. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein some of the twelve bends comprises a spring element.

43. (Original) The stent of claim 42, wherein each spring element compensates for changes in longitudinal length of the cell when the stent is expanded.

44. (Original) The stent of claim 34, wherein one of the twelve bends is a central bottom bend which extends into the cell.

45. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:
a plurality of closed cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;
BZ [wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell; and]
wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends; and
wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells, with each cell in the second longitudinal row of cells having a different orientation from each cell in the first longitudinal row of cells.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Original) The stent of claim 45, wherein each of the plurality of cells has exactly twelve bends.

BZ 48. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim [[46]] 45, wherein each cell in a longitudinal row is directly connected to an adjacent cell in the same longitudinal row.

49. (Original) The stent of claim 45, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends.

50. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 47,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell;

wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends; and

wherein exactly three of the bends define an internal angle that is less than ninety degrees.

51. (Original) The stent of claim 47, wherein five of the twelve bends extend inside the cell.

52. (Original) The stent of claim 47, wherein four of the twelve bends extend outside the cell.

53. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 47,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell is directly connected to an adjacent cell;

wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends; and

wherein exactly three of the twelve bends define acute apices.

54. (Original) The stent of claim 45, wherein some of the bends comprises a spring element.

55. (Original) The stent of claim 54, wherein each spring element compensates for changes in longitudinal length of the cell when the stent is expanded.

56. (Original) The stent of claim 47, wherein one of the twelve bends is a central bottom bend which extends into the cell.

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57. (Currently Amended) A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:
a plurality of closed cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis; [[and]]

wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends; and

wherein the plurality of cells define a first longitudinal row of cells and a second adjacent longitudinal row of cells, with each cell in the second longitudinal row of cells having a different orientation from each cell in the first longitudinal row of cells.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim [[58]] 57, wherein each cell in a longitudinal row is directly connected to an adjacent cell in the same longitudinal row.

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60. (Original) The stent of claim 57, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has exactly four struts that are connected to each other to form the cell, with each strut having exactly two spaced-apart bends.

61. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 57,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends; and

wherein exactly three of the bends define an internal angle that is less than ninety degrees.

62. (Original) The stent of claim 57, wherein five of the twelve bends extend inside the cell.

63. (Original) The stent of claim 57, wherein four of the twelve bends extend outside the cell.

64. (Currently Amended) [The stent of claim 57,] A stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a plurality of cells disposed about the circumference of the stent, with each of the plurality of cells having exactly twelve bends and being non-symmetrical about the longitudinal axis;

wherein each cell of the plurality of cells has a straight portion that is positioned between each of the bends; and

wherein exactly three of the twelve bends define acute apices.

65. (Original) The stent of claim 57, wherein some of the twelve bends comprises a spring element.

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66. (Original) The stent of claim 65, wherein each spring element compensates for changes in longitudinal length of the cell when the stent is expanded.

67. (Original) The stent of claim 57, wherein one of the twelve bends is a central bottom bend which extends into the cell.

